

OPINION 1695

Acanthopthalmus van Hasselt in Temminck, 1824 (Osteichthyes, Cypriniformes): not conserved

Ruling

(1) The name *Pangio* Blyth, 1860 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Cobitis cinnamomea* McClelland, 1839 (an unnecessary replacement name for *C. pangia* Hamilton, 1822), is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(2) The name *pangia* Hamilton, 1822, as published in the binomen *Cobitis pangia* (senior objective synonym of the specific name of *Cobitis cinnamomea* McClelland, 1839, the type species of *Pangio* Blyth, 1860), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *Acanthopthalmus* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1824 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (a junior objective synonym of *Cobitis* Linnaeus, 1758).

History of Case 2738

An application for the conservation of *Acanthopthalmus* van Hasselt in Temminck, 1824, and the designation of *Cobitis kuhlii* Valenciennes in Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1846 as the type species, was received from Drs Mary E. BurrIDGE (*Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada*), Darrell J. Siebert (*The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) and Carl Ferraris (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.*) on 30 August 1989. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 47: 118–121 (June 1990). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Opposing comments from Drs Peter K.L. Ng, Angus D. Munro & Kelvin K.P. Lim (*National University of Singapore, Singapore*) and from Dr Maurice Kottelat (*Zoologische Staatssammlung, München, Germany*) were published in BZN 48: 59–62 (March 1991). A reply by one of the authors of the application, Dr Darrell J. Siebert, was published at the same time (BZN 48: 63–64), together with a comment in support from Drs Harro Hieronimus (*Solingen, Germany*), Jürgen Schmidt (*Kamen, Germany*) & Christian P. Steinle (*Neuenburg, Germany*).

A list of the additional representative references demonstrating usage of the generic name *Acanthopthalmus* van Hasselt, 1824 was published in BZN 48: 64–65.

Opposing comments from Dr Rohan Pethiyagoda (*The Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka*) and from Dr Rainer Stawikowski (*Gelsenkirchen, Germany*) were published in BZN 48: 251–253 (September 1991).

It was noted on the voting paper that an opposing comment had also been received from Prof J.S. Nelson (*University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada*), who wrote: 'I feel that the interests of zoological nomenclature would be best served by staying with *Pangio* Blyth, 1860 as the name for what have become known as the kuhli loaches'.

It was also noted on the voting paper that until 1987 *Cobitis* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Acanthopthalmus* were in long-established use in the sense of having *C. taenia* Linnaeus, 1758 and *C. kuhlii* Valenciennes, 1846 as the respective type species, both by designation by Bleeker (1863, pp. 362 and 364). In neither case were these designations formally valid, and in 1986 Dr M. Kottelat applied for the conservation of *C. taenia* as

the type species of *Cobitis* (BZN 43: 360–362). This was confirmed in Opinion 1500 (June 1988). Dr Kottelat did not, however, seek to conserve *Acanthopthalmus* (which formally has *C. taenia* as the type species; see BZN 47: 118, para. 1), and in 1987 he introduced usage of the junior subjective synonym *Pangio* Blyth, 1869 (see BZN 47: 119, para. 6) to replace *Acanthopthalmus* auctt. (i.e. sensu *C. kuhlii*). This course was followed by many but not all authors.

In a recent publication on *Acanthopthalmus kuhlii* (Valenciennes, 1846), BurrIDGE (1992, p. 182) designated a neotype for the species: specimen no. RMNH 2688 in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands, collected by S. Müller in Java between 1826 and 1832 or 1836.

The original application (BZN 47: 118–121) sought the conservation of *Acanthopthalmus* van Hasselt, 1824 for the kuhli loaches, with the designation of *Cobitis kuhlii* as the type species and the suppression of the (unused) earliest spelling *Acanthopthalmus* van Hasselt, 1823 (placed on the Official Index in Opinion 1500 as a junior objective synonym of *Cobitis*). This course (proposal A) required the use of the plenary powers. The alternative course was to use *Pangio* Blyth, 1860 (Proposal B; BZN 48: 252); *Acanthopthalmus* would remain a junior objective synonym of *Cobitis*.

Additional reference

BurrIDGE, M.E. 1992. Systematics of the *Acanthopthalmus kuhlii* complex (Teleostei: Cobitidae), with the description of a new species from Sarawak and Brunei. *Copeia*, 1992(1): 172–186.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to vote. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1992 the votes were as follows:

Proposal A — 8: Bock, Corliss, Dupuis, Kraus, Savage, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin and Willink.

Proposal B — 21: Bayer, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Schuster, Štys, Thompson and Uéno.

Ride commented that he considered that the usage of *Pangio* Blyth, 1860 since 1987 could not be ignored. Kottelat (1987) had made an adequate case (subsequently supported by others) when he introduced the name, and the state of taxonomy in the group was such that its introduction would not affect stability, disturb universality or cause confusion, and its continued use was therefore justified.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Acanthopthalmus van Hasselt, 1824, in Temminck, C.J., *Bulletin des Sciences Naturelles et de Zoologie*, 2(Zoologie): 376.

pangia, *Cobitis*, Hamilton (formerly Buchanan), 1822, *An account of the fishes found in the river Ganges and its branches*, p. 355.

Pangio Blyth, 1860, *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, 29: 169.